



CRAFT IN AMERICA

CRAFTING A TALE OF ECOLOGY EDUCATION GUIDE

Worksheet #1: *The Ecology of Art Materials*

"A lot of the materials that we use for the traditional arts are becoming increasingly rare, like the big cedar trees for a totem pole or a canoe. In my own way I'm trying to introduce this new material to the native culture."
– Preston Singletary

Choose three favorite art materials and list them below.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Research each material online. Look for what it is made of, how it is made, and if there are warnings about its use. If you are researching paint, pastels, or other pigment materials, choose a specific color to look up such as cadmium red. Are any of the materials becoming scarce? What happens when they are thrown away? Working together, see how much data you can find.

Share information with your group, and then compare notes with others in the class. For example, compare the materials of paper mache to those needed for an oil painting. If your favorite materials have toxic elements, can you locate information about their safe handling?

Create an informational card featuring the safety and ecological information you've found. Add it to the class bulletin board. Other students may be interested in the material you researched. You are going to be creating a diorama to represent your retold tale. With your group, brainstorm recycled or found materials you might make use of in this work. Make a list on this worksheet.